99TH CONGRESS
2d Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT
99-497

CHRISTA McAULIFFE NATIONAL TALENTED TEACHER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

MARCH 19, 1986.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

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Mr. HAWKINS, from the Committee on Education and Labor, submitted the following

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REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 4143]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Education and Labor to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 4143) to name the National Talented Teacher Fellowship Program after Christa McAuliffe, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 4143 was introduced on February 6, 1986. Three original cosponsors, who joined Mr. Augustus Hawkins, Chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, in its introduction included Mr. William D. Ford of Michigan, the ranking majority member; Mr. James M. Jeffords of Vermont, the ranking minority member; and Mr. William Lehman of Florida.

On March 11, 1986 the Committee on Education and Labor, during its Executive Session, recognized Mr. William D. Ford, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, for the purpose of making a motion that the Subcommittee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4143 to name the National Talented Teacher Fellowship Program after the late Christa McAuliffe, so that the Committee could proceed to its immediate consideration. The motion was agreed to, and H.R. 4143 was reported favorably by unanimous voice vote of the Committee Members.

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EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

Since its introduction, the bill has gained an additional 47 cosponsors. The strong bipartisan support for enactment of H.R. 4143 stems from the fact that Christa McAuliffe, a courageous and beloved teacher from New Hampshire, was one of the seven astronauts who died in the fiery explosion of NASA's Challenger Space Shuttle on January 28, 1986.

Under a program proposed by President Ronald Reagan, she would have been the first "citizen in space". Christa McAuliffe was selected from among more than 10,000 of her peers in a national competition to become the first participant in NASA's "Teacher in Space" program.

H.R. 4143 was introduced out of respect and in deep appreciation for a fine teacher, but also because the Committee believes that such recognition will carry out a wish of Christa McAuliffe that her launch into space would be an important step towards a better future for our children. It is meant as a sincere and lasting tribute to Mrs. McAuliffe, and to her teacher-colleagues everywhere. Through them, Christa McAuliffe's ideals will live on.

Mrs. McAuliffe was a woman, a wife, a mother and a teacher. In all of these roles she excelled by setting an example through the strength of her character, her energy, and the warmth of her personality. She taught school in a world where there is much talk about the threat of war; where there is much speculation as to whether our nation will be able to survive in peace so that children will have a future; in a time when young children are known to suffer great anxiety about the threat of a nuclear holocaust. When Mrs. McAuliffe was selected to be the first teacher in space, it was with the expectation that she would come back to earth to teach young people about the exciting prospect of using space technology and nuclear energy in peaceful ways. That, too, would have been a meaningful and lasting contribution she might have made to a nation, acting in her role of teacher and exemplifying through her own achievement the value of study, a disciplined mind, and hard work.

Christa McAuliffe was the spirited and inspiring teacher we all want to teach our children, so that they will reach for their own stars in each of their own ways—whether to become tomorrow's astronauts or tomorrow's teachers.

BASIC PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The National Talented Teachers Fellowship Program, which this bill would rename for Christa McAuliffe, was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in October 1984. It will make available to States a means of identifying, and rewarding, outstanding teachers in communities across the nation. Through State panels, made up of teachers, school administrators, and parents, selected recipients will be given opportunities for obtaining further professional development and training to assist them as they seek to touch the minds of children. Recipients may also decide to conduct special innovative projects, or to design a model teacher/staff development program for the benefit of their own school districts or, through replication, school districts elsewhere.

Recipients of the Christa McAuliffe Fellowships will be given a one-year sabbatical away from the regular classroom, and the monetary stipend will amount to the national average teacher salary being paid in the year the award is made (as determined by the Secretary of Education). In exchange for the Fellowships, recipients agree to return to home classrooms for at least another two years of teaching.

It was the intent of Congress that the Talented Teacher Fellowship Program be used as a "retention mechanism" in the hope that recipients would respond to the year-long paid sabbatical with a renewal of their commitment to the teaching profession. It is our hope that whole communities will respond in recognition of not only the local recipients selected on the basis of outstanding performance in the classroom, but in recognition of all teachers everywhere for their daily performance in the most important job there is—the development of the intellectual potential of children, entrusted to them from their most formative early years, to young adulthood.

Through this tribute to Christa McAuliffe, and by extension to all teachers, the Committee reaffirms the national priority that every child has the right to a quality education. By assisting teachers, we provide the means for our children to achieve all that they can as individuals. The Committee, through this action, further reaffirms its strong belief that there is not a better nor more important investment our government can make than in education, and that it remains not only a national priority, but a public policy—alongside and in equal standing with federal investments in technology, military preparedness, and balancing the budget.

This amendment to Part F of Title V of the Higher Education Act of 1965, renaming the National Talented Teacher Fellowship Program after Christa McAuliffe, assumes no new costs present or future, beyond those contained in the original enacting legislation, Public Law 98-558. Finally, the Committee expresses its collective hope and expectation that the modest previously enacted authorization of an appropriation of $2 million in Fiscal Year 1987 will be given serious consideration by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, so that the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship program can be implemented in a timely manner nationwide.

Oversight Findings

With reference to clause 2(l)(3)(D) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee reports that no findings or recommendations of the Committee on Government Operations were received during the 99th Congress with reference to the subject matter addressed by H.R. 4143. No oversight findings exist which might be reported to conform with clause 2(l)(3)(A) or Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Cost Estimate

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has provided the Committee on Education and Labor with the following estimate on the costs involved in implementing this legislation. The Committee concurs with and adopts CBO's estimate pursuant to Clause 7 of

Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives. No other cost estimates have been received from any Federal agencies or departments.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, March 14, 1986.

Hon. AUGUSTUS F. HAWKINS,
Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has examined the federal cost impact of H.R. 4143, a bill to rename the National Talented Teacher Fellowship Program after Christa McAuliffe, as ordered reported from the House Education and Labor Committee March 11, 1986. Based on our analysis, there would be no increase in federal, state or local government costs as a result of passage of this bill.

The purpose of H.R. 4143 is to merely rename Part F of Title V of the Higher Education Act of 1965 after Christa McAuliffe.

Please call me if you have any questions or have your staff contact Deborah Kalcevic (226-2820).

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

RUDOLPH G. PENNER, *Director.*

INFLATIONARY IMPACT STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 2(l)(4) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and after reviewing the Congressional Budget Office cost estimate, the Committee expects this legislation will not have an inflationary impact upon prices and costs in the operation of the national economy.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3 of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

SECTION 571 OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965

[PART F—NATIONAL TALENTED TEACHER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM]

PART F—CHRISTA MCAULIFFE NATIONAL TALENTED TEACHER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

SEC. 571. It is the purpose of this part to establish a national fellowship program for outstanding teachers. *The fellowships awarded under this part shall be referred to as "McAuliffe Fellowships."*

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF H.R. 4143

Section 1.

Section 1 amends section 571 of the Higher Edcucation Act of 1965 by adding at the end thereof the following new sentence: "The fellowships awarded under this part shall be referred to as 'McAuliffe Fellowships'."

Section 2.

Section 2 amends the heading of part F of title V of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to read as follows:

"PART F—CHRISTA MCAULIFFE NATIONAL TALENTED TEACHER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM."

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